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June 6, 1968

Dear Gene:

I have been meaning to answer your May 7th daily, and to choose today, so filled with tragedy and sorrow, seems unnatural. Like everyone else, I can not seem to take in the fact of this useless and wasteful assasination and as I walked out this morning, a definite mood of disbelief and shock exists. One's heart goes out to all of the family but, I think, my deepest desire is to reach out to his mother, who surely has borne about all a human can be expected to face.

Your letter was so fine and brought such typical goodness and encouragement. I can't thank you enough. We have tried to figure some way to accept your invitation but as the time races forward, I don't see how we can manage the trip. I have been packing books and records and other unnecessary(?) things for weeks, and am now at the point where the really necessary items call for attention. Also, I am keeping up my teaching schedule to the limit, as I will need every penny I can assemble. Anna, too, is working regularly up until July 3, and has several prospects for jobs in La Jolla and San Diego, which might demand an earlier departure for her for the coast. We are so fortunate to have found a house(not an apartment, as you thought) and so that worry, at least, is lifted.

The wedding is set for Sunday afternoon, July 7, at 2:00; it will be extremely simple and in my apartment, with Jesse doing the honors. Is there any possibility that you and Sunny could or would undertake the trip down for it? I had not thought the matter through carefully, as there are so many things that are new and different about all of this, but you surely have been my closest and most devoted friend over all these twenty-two years, guiding and counseling, and encouraging in the darkest times. I would not want to feel that I have posed a problem or burden for you, but if there is a desire on your part to be in at the next chapter, one which you have envisioned and favored for a long time, both of us would be more than grateful. My brother and his wife may come up from Md., but it is far from certain. Anna's two brothers and their wives will be here, and the Stimsons. Quite a few have urged me to go up to the church for the wedding, but I prefer to keep it small, intimate, and, as far as I am concerned, a more religious affair than I would be able to sense up there.

I was out to see Jim McCracken on Monday, and he seems very good, but Maude has changed extremely since I last saw her more than two years ago, and Jim commented that she had lost a great deal of ground. We rehashed a lot of the past and he is knowledgeable and shaken by much that he now knows, and is concerned as to what will be happening when the new minister arrives.

I am going to Md. this week-end to begin the final settlement about my house there. I have succeeded at long last in selling it, so will have that off my mind before we leave. If you do come down in the next week or two, as you had suggested, please let me know in time. Things are piling up and up! Love to both,

Dick